

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-15 are pending and stand rejected. Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for rejection and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-15 in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent Claims 1 and 13

Claims 1-3 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0215582 to Manduley, hereinafter "Manduley."

Independent claims 1 and 13 includes features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference, namely as represented by claim 1:

1. (Original) An apparatus for use with an envelope feeding machine, wherein the feeding machine feeds envelopes in a feed direction along a feed path, the apparatus comprising:

a print head, wherein the print head is operative in response to a print signal to print on a substrate passing proximate the print head;

a frame adapted for being positioned proximate the feeding machine, the frame being adapted to be interchangeably mounted to one of a plurality of different types of feeding machines having different feed rates, wherein the print head is attached to the frame and oriented so that envelopes traveling along the feed path will pass proximate the print head thereby enabling indicia to be printed on an envelope passing proximate the print head;

a sensor positioned proximate the feed path for generating a detection signal when an envelope passes proximate the sensor; and

a controller, electrically connected to the print head, the controller adapted to generate the print signal, the controller adapted to ***vary print signal speed*** to appropriately print the indicia on envelopes fed by feeding machines having different feed rates, the controller adapted to initiate the print signal based on the detection signal. (emphasis added)

Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for use with an envelope feeding machine. The apparatus can be interchangeably mounted to a plurality of different types of feeding machines. In this manner, the invention enables a user to benefit from technology advances, such as, for example, the ability to purchase postage over the Internet, without having to completely abandon any prior investment in a mailing machine (application as originally filed

at page 5, line 30 to page 6, line). Moreover, the apparatus can be used with a variety of different types of feeding machines, by varying its own print signal speed to match that of the particular machine feeding it.

Manduley does *not* disclose or suggest a *varying print signal speed*, as recited by the claims. Manduley, in direct contrast to the claims, uses a movement restraining means 6 to control the movement of the envelope to match the speed of the printing head 2. Manduley's system thus would, *slow* the feed rate of envelopes to match its printing speed rather than varying the print speed to match the envelope speed.

Accordingly, applicant submits that the cited reference does not disclose or suggest the features as recited in claims 1 and 13. Inasmuch as claims 2-12 and 14-15 depend from claims 1 and 13, they are also patentable over the cited reference at least by reason of their dependency. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103.

IDS

Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner initial the IDS filed November 17, 2003.

Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the office action and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Raymond N. Scott Jr. at (215) 564-8951, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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